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Items 34, 52, 54, 64, 70, 95 and 101 of the preliminary list*

Questions relating to information

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Promotion and protection of human rights

General and complete disarmament

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Letter dated 12 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, on behalf of the Namibian Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the texts of the following four resolutions adopted by the 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Addis Ababa, 10 April 2009), which are entitled:

(a) "The role of parliaments in mitigating the social and political impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, especially in Africa" (under items 52 and 64 of the preliminary list) (see annex I);

(b) "Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty: the role of parliaments" (under items 95 and 101 of the preliminary list) (see annex II);

(c) "Climate change, sustainable development models and renewable energies" (under item 54 of the preliminary list) (see annex III);

(d) "Freedom of expression and the right to information" (under items 34 and 70 of the preliminary list) (see annex IV).

* A/64/50.

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I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly at its forthcoming sixty-fourth session, under the above-mentioned items of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Kaire M. **Mbuende**
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 12 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN MITIGATING THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 120th IPU Assembly
(Addis Ababa, 10 April 2009)

The 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *Considering* the consequences of the global financial crisis and its adverse impacts on the global economy, in particular in developing nations,

(2) *Concerned* that the global financial crisis is affecting developed countries through lower exports and foreign earnings, reduced availability and higher cost of credit, lower levels of foreign direct investment and foreign aid, and in other ways,

(3) *Mindful* of the interdependence of national economies and global economic systems,

(4) *Deeply concerned* about the adverse impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community; *bearing in mind* that the crisis has its origins in developed countries, and that its solution requires a broad international dialogue with the active participation of all countries under United Nations auspices to facilitate the thorough reconstruction of the global international financial architecture, including by setting up early warning systems,

(5) *Noting* that the international economic and financial crisis necessitates the redesign of current development models to place the value of human life at the centre of their concerns,

(6) *Recognizing* the need to establish a stable, fair and secure global economic system,

(7) *Recalling* the communiqué issued at the close of the G20 London Summit on 2 April 2009, in which G20 leaders pledged to take measures to restore confidence, repair the financial system, promote global trade and investment, and build an inclusive, green and sustainable recovery, while at the same time recognizing their collective responsibility to mitigate the social impact of the crisis,

(8) *Recalling furthermore* the commitment of the G20 States to achieve their respective officia development assistance pledges, including commitments on aid for trade, debt relief and the Gleneagles commitments, especially to sub-Saharan Africa,

(9) *Recalling* that at the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Developmen in Monterrey in 2002, developed countries signed the Monterrey Consensus, which recognizes that a substantial increase in ODA and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, and urges developed countries to make concrete efforts to reach the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries,

(10) *Mindful* that, according to the United Nations, some of the most vulnerable sectors of society worldwide are located in Africa, home to more than 920 million people, 60 per cent of whom are aged under 25, that about two fifths of this population live on less than US$ 1 a day, that in sub-Saharan Africa between 21 and 23 million people are infected with HIV and that each year there are 1.7 million new infections, that infant mortality stands at 166 per 1,000 live births and that 90 per cent of deaths caused by malaria annually worldwide occur on the African continent,

(11) *Recalling* that it has been said at different multilateral forums that the greatest challenge facing the world today is poverty eradication and that this challenge is all the greater as a result of the international economic and financial crisis,

(12) *Recognizing* that progress in both providing funding for and fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals requires greater global efforts, that the MDGs are far from being fulfilled, and that these difficulties are compounded by the international economic and financial crisis,

(13) *Recognizing* the valuable and little-known contribution of Africa to the development of culture, history and civilization,

(14) *Noting* the impact of slavery and the forced removal of vital labour and natural resources that would have helped develop Africa,

(15) *Noting with concern* that a global recovery will be delayed until well into 2010 even if countries adopt the correct policies to fight the recession, and that while most low-income countries escaped the early phases of the global crisis, they are now being hit hard,

(16) *Recognizing* that countries, including 17 of the G20 countries that signed the November 2008 pledge to avoid protectionist measures, have implemented 47 measures that restrict trade a

the expense of other countries, and that every 1 per cent drop in global economic growth could trap an additional 20 million people in poverty,

(17) *Considering* the importance of parliament's role, in cooperation with the national government, in trying to reduce the negative impacts of the global financial crisis on the world's most vulnerable, and the importance of cooperation between parliaments and governments to advance the development goals set by the international community,

(18) *Bearing in mind* the shared and differentiated responsibilities of all countries to address the global financial crisis for humanitarian and other reasons,

(19) *Welcoming* the unanimous adoption by the 119th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 2008) of the resolution entitled "The role of parliaments in containing the global financial crisis and its economic impact, both on developing and developed countries", which called on the Governing Council to organize an international parliamentary conference to examine the causes and effects of the international financial crisis,

(20) *Convinced* that this Assembly is an opportunity to demonstrate solidarity with African and other developing countries in the difficult situation they are currently facing,

1. *Calls* for urgent action by all parliaments to address the global financial crisis at the forthcoming IPU Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis scheduled for 7 and 8 May 2009;

2. *Reaffirms* its full support for the June 2009 United Nations General Assembly high-level conference on the international financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, and *urges* the IPU to convey to the President of the United Nations General Assembly the hope that the conference will devote particular emphasis to the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, paying special attention to the African continent in light of its particular needs;

3. *Calls on* the parliaments and governments of the world to consider the eradication of poverty and social injustice and its root causes in Africa and other developing countries as a priority, and to implement actions to deal effectively with them;

4. *Urges* parliaments to explore ways to mitigate the social, political and economic effects of the global financial crisis, particularly on developing nations;

5. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure effective governance of financial systems, including regulatory measures, in order to avoid future financial crises and provide accountability;

6. *Urges* the governments of developed nations to assume appropriate responsibility to help remedy the negative effects on developing countries of the global financial crisis.

Annex II to the letter dated 12 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

ADVANCING NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT, AND SECURING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS

Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 120th IPU Assembly
(Addis Ababa, 10 April 2009)

The 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *Determined* to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to strengthening international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and *underscoring* that substantial progress in the field of nuclear disarmament requires active support and dedicated contributions by all States,

(2) *Deeply concerned* that the existence in the world of some 26,000 nuclear weapons, whose use can have devastating human, environmental and economic consequences, constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

(3) *Reaffirming* the obligations of nuclear-weapon States under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) towards nuclear disarmament and their unequivocal undertakings under the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences in this regard,

(4) *Recalling* past IPU resolutions designed to advance the progress of non-proliferation and disarmament and to encourage ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), in particular the one adopted by the 101st Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Brussels, April 1999),

(5) *Reaffirming* the crucial importance of the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, which sets out legal obligations in these fields at the same time as it guarantees the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

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* The following delegations expressed reservations on parts of the resolution:
- China - operative paragraphs 10, 11 and 15;
- India - preambular paragraphs 4, 5, 7, 10 and 12 and operative paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 13;
- Iran (Islamic Republic of) - preambular paragraph 18 and operative paragraphs 6, 10, 21 and 26;
- Pakistan - preambular paragraphs 7 and 13 and operative paragraphs 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 23.

(6) *Recalling* international conventions and resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and the IPU on the right to access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes,

(7) *Concerned* that non-compliance with all provisions of the NPT by some States has undermined the three pillars of the NPT and eroded the benefits derived by all States,

(8) *Considering* the importance of all States ensuring strict compliance with their nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament obligations,

(9) *Recognizing* the progress made under the NPT and the resulting safeguards agreements, and *urging* the nuclear-weapon States to fully implement the commitments they undertook during the NPT Review Conferences in 1995 and 2000,

(10) *Concerned* that, in spite of tireless efforts made by the international community for forty years to ban nuclear explosions in all environments, and thirteen years after it was opened for signature, the CTBT has yet to enter into force,

(11) *Convinced* that the verified cessation of nuclear-weapon-test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective disarmament and non-proliferation measure and is a meaningful preliminary step towards nuclear disarmament, but *stressing* that the only way to remove the threat of nuclear weapons is the total elimination of such inhumane weapons,

(12) *Stressing* that a universal and effectively verifiable CTBT constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,

(13) *Underscoring* the crucial role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in promoting nuclear cooperation, the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries, and nuclear non-proliferation, and the need for every State to adopt the non-proliferation safeguards standard of a comprehensive safeguards agreement combined with an additional protocol,

(14) *Disappointed* that after over a decade, the Conference on Disarmament, the UN multilateral disarmament negotiation body, has yet to agree on a programme of work and resume its important mandate, owing to the divergent views on disarmament negotiation priorities,

(15) *Considering* the important role played by bilateral disarmament treaties, such as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, *welcoming* the cuts made by some nuclear-weapon States to their nuclear arsenals and *urging* deeper, faster and irreversible cuts to all types of nuclear weapons by all nuclear-armed States,

(16) *Convinced* that the best way to guarantee world peace and stability is to take effective measures for international security, including disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

(17) *Recognizing* the benefits of confidence-building measures, such as the de-emphasizing of nuclear weapons in national security doctrines and the removal of nuclear weapons systems from high alert status, and *mindful* of the mutual confidence engendered by freely agreed regional nuclear-weapon-free zones, such as those in the South Pacific, Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America,

(18) *Underscoring* the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, without exception,

(19) *Deeply concerned* by the risk of accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons and by the resulting toll in human life, environmental damage, political tensions, economic loss and market instability,

(20) *Pledging* to bring about fuller parliamentary involvement in the disarmament process, particularly in respect of nuclear weapons, in the form of greater pressure on governments and detailed scrutiny of military budgets and procurement programmes allocated for nuclear weapons development,

(21) *Mindful* of the fact that national defence policies should not compromise the fundamental principle of undiminished security for all, and thus *recalling* that any unilateral deployment or build-up of strategic anti-ballistic missile assets affecting the deterrent capacity of nuclear-weapon States might hinder the process of nuclear disarmament,

1. *Calls on* all nuclear-armed States to make deeper, faster and irreversible cuts to all types of nuclear weapons;

2. *Urges* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and combat the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in accordance with international law;

3. *Underscores* the vital role of the CTBT as part of a framework for achieving nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and *expresses disappointment* that, thirteen years after it was opened for signature, the Treaty has yet to enter into force;

4. *Stresses* the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, to achieve the earliest entry into force of the CTBT;

5. *Welcomes* the signatures/ratifications of the CTBT in 2008 by Barbados, Burundi, Colombia, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique and Timor-Leste;

6. *Calls upon* the parliaments of all States that have not yet signed and ratified the CTBT to exert pressure on their governments to do so;

7. *Especially urges* parliaments of all remaining States listed in Annex 2 of the CTBT, whose ratification is required to bring the treaty into force, to urge their governments to immediately sign and ratify the treaty;

8. *Calls on* all nuclear-armed States to continue to observe their moratoria on nuclear-weapon testing, on all States that have not already done so to proceed, on a voluntary basis, to dismantle their nuclear test sites, and on all States to maintain support for the CTBT Organization verification system until the CTBT enters into force;

9. *Urges* immediate commencement of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices;

10. *Invites* States to initiate negotiations with a view to concluding a treaty on the prohibition of short-range and intermediate-range land missiles that carry nuclear warheads;

11. *Recommends* that States with ballistic missile capacity that have not acceded to the Hague Code of Conduct do so quickly in order to render this instrument completely effective against ballistic missile proliferation;

12. *Calls on* all nuclear-armed States to adopt confidence-building measures, including the de-emphasizing of nuclear weapons in national security doctrines and the removal of all nuclear weapons from high alert status;

13. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving universal accession to the NPT, and of States not party to the NPT acceding to it promptly and unconditionally as non-nuclear-weapon States, and of all States party to the NPT fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty;

14. *Is hopeful* that the States concerned will be required to sign and comply with safeguards agreements and additional protocols, in particular those concluded in the framework of the IAEA, as a prerequisite for benefiting from international cooperation in the field of nuclear energy for civilian purposes;

15. *Calls on* all States to support the initiatives aimed at globalizing the obligations set forth in the Treaty signed between the United States and the former Soviet Union on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles (INF Treaty) and to promote cooperative approaches to the issue of missile defence, beginning with a joint assessment of possible threats;

16. *Calls on* national parliaments to ensure State compliance with all their disarmament and non-proliferation obligations;

17. *Urges* parliaments to provide strong and effective support to all resolutions and recommendations on peace, disarmament and security previously adopted at IPU Conferences and Assemblies;

18. *Encourages* parliaments to monitor closely national implementation of all arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and UN resolutions, to engage their publics on nuclear issues and to report back to the IPU on progress made;

19. *Urges* IAEA Member States or parties to a safeguards agreement to lend strong and constant support to the IAEA so that it can honour its safeguards obligations and therefore to cooperate in good faith with the IAEA by providing it with all information requested;

20. *Calls on* States whose ratification is needed for the entry into force of general safeguards agreements to take the necessary steps to that end as soon as possible;

21. *Further calls on* the States party to a safeguards agreement which have not yet signed and/or ratified an additional protocol to do so as soon as possible;

22. *Recommends* that the United Nations, especially the Office of Disarmament Affairs, and the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization, strengthen cooperation with the IPU;

23. *Invites* the IPU Secretary General to contact, on an annual basis, the parliaments of the States which have not signed and/or ratified the international treaties mentioned in the present resolution with a view to encouraging them to do so;

24. *Urges* parliaments to instruct governments to express their support for the UN Secretary-General's Five Point Proposal contained in his address, "The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World";

25. *Encourages* parliaments to support the full ratification and implementation of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, and to explore the possibility of establishing additional nuclear-weapon-free zones freely agreed by States in specific regions;

26. *Calls for* the necessary steps to be taken to declare the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone, without exception, in keeping with the resolution endorsed by the NPT Review Conference in 1995;

27. *Encourages* all parliaments to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where possible, to promote compliance with the NPT through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means.

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Annex III to the letter dated 12 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MODELS, AND RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 120th IPU Assembly (Addis Ababa, 10 April 2009)

The 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *Recalling* the fundamental model for sustainable development contained in the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, where sustainable development was defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,

(2) *Emphasizing* that anthropogenic climate change is already observable and is a key issue for our generation that will impede the ability of future generations to meet their needs and exacerbate the needs of the poor, and that must be addressed urgently through technological and social change,

(3) *Noting* that the development and deployment of renewable energies hold great promise in reconciling the increasing needs for energy, particularly in the developing world, and the ability of the environment to meet present and future needs,

(4) *Commending* the work of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change,

(5) *Acknowledging* that 2009 is a watershed year for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the parties move into full negotiating mode to complete the Bali Road Map for strengthening the global response to climate change in time for the 15th Conference of the Parties to be held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009,

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* The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 36, 38 and 40, as well as on operative paragraphs 20 and 38. The delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) expressed reservations on preambular paragraph 25.

(6) *Recalling* the resolution adopted at the 114th IPU Assembly (Nairobi, 2006) on the role of parliaments in environmental management and in combating global degradation of the environment,

(7) *Taking note of* the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on 26 February 2009 in Bonn, whose mandate is to advise and support industrialized and developing countries with a view to increasing the share of renewable energy in their energy production,

(8) *Noting* that the protection of natural resources is a core concern of parliaments and governments worldwide, and *highlighting* the tension between natural resources and an increasing world population,

(9) *Noting* that per capita emissions of greenhouse gases continue to be much higher in industrialized nations than in developing nations, and *recalling* that the industrialized countries committed in 1992 under the UNFCCC to limit their anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and to protect and enhance their greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs through policies and measures that would demonstrate that they are taking the lead in modifying longer-term trends in anthropogenic emissions,

(10) *Aware* that energy is essential for sustainable development, in particular for the alleviation of poverty, but that current supplies are reliant on fossil fuels, the use of which has led to a build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that has had the unintended consequence of causing changes to the climate,

(11) *Recalling* that, in addition to the depletion of the ozone layer, the sharp increase worldwide in greenhouse gas emissions is regarded as the main cause of global warming,

(12) *Considering* that the accelerated reduction of the cryosphere (all ice and snow surfaces) and the subsequent rise in sea level is a clarion call for immediate action,

(13) *Noting* that the IPCC has predicted that by 2100, the global average sea level will have risen by 9 to 88 centimetres, submerging coastal communities of both developed and developing countries,

(14) *Noting* that the causes of global warming and effects of climate change are extremely uneven, that the historical difference in accumulative greenhouse gas emissions is clearly demonstrated by a comparison between developed and developing nations, and that particular importance should therefore be attached to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, which is deeply rooted in the UNFCCC,

(15) *Recalling* that the community of nations has been dealing since the late 1970s with climate change, its causes, consequences and necessary counter measures, in terms of cutting emissions but also of adapting to the effects of climate change,

(16) *Recalling* that the international community raised this issue at the First World Climate Conference (Geneva, 1979); the Vienna Conference for the protection of the ozone layer (1985); the International Conference on the protection of the ozone layer (Montreal, 1987); the Toronto Conference on global warming (1988), via the establishment of the IPCC in 1988, at the Second World Climate Conference (Geneva, 1990), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), known as the Earth Summit, the first Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP1 - Berlin, 1995) and the third Conference of the Parties (COP3 - Kyoto, 1997), in the Kyoto Protocol and at G8 summits and the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (Bali, 2007 and Poznan, 2008),

(17) *Recalling* that the industrialized countries party to the UNFCCC agreed to reduce emissions of anthropogenic greenhouse gases, alone or through cooperation, to 1990 levels and to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

(18) *Subscribing* fully to the target of limiting to 2°C the average rise in temperatures since the pre-industrialization period, as set out in the above-mentioned resolution adopted by the 114th IPU Assembly,

(19) *Reaffirming* that the Parties to the UNFCCC agreed to protect the climate system on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

(20) *Supporting* the agreement reached at the G8 Summit held in Hokkaido Toyako in 2008, whereby the G8 seeks "to share with all Parties to the UNFCCC the vision of, and consider and adopt in the UNFCCC negotiations, the goal of achieving at least 50% reduction of global emissions by 2050",

(21) *Aware* that that goal cannot be met unless developed countries take the lead in significantly cutting their greenhouse gas emissions, providing financial resources and transferring environment-friendly technologies to developing countries through mechanisms established under the UNFCCC, and unless the fight against poverty, an appropriate population policy, the reduction and elimination of unsustainable consumption and production practices, and the full involvement of the population in political decision-making are recognized as prerequisites of sustainable development,

(22) *Noting with satisfaction* the ambitious nature of the plan of action agreed by the European Union in December 2008 to achieve the following objectives by 2020: reduce by at least 20 per cent its greenhouse gas emissions (this percentage would increase to 30 per cent should a global post-Kyoto accord be concluded in Copenhagen in 2009), enhance its energy efficiency by 20 per cent and increase the share of renewable energies to at least 20 per cent,

(23) *Recalling* that under the Kyoto Protocol, agreed to at the COP3, the Annex I or developed countries individually or jointly undertook to reduce their overall emissions of six greenhouse gases or groups of greenhouse gases to at least 5 per cent below average 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012,

(24) *Considering* that, in addition to cuts in their own emissions, Parties to the Kyoto Protocol have three flexible mechanisms at their disposal to help them pursue this goal, namely: global trading of rights to emit greenhouse gases (emissions trading); the implementation of measures in developing countries within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism; and project-based cooperation with other industrialized nations for the reduction of emissions, the cuts achieved being measurable against national reduction targets (joint implementation),

(25) *Recalling* the commitment made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000, which established the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and *emphasizing* the following goals: Goal 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Goal 3: promote gender equality and empower women; Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability; and Goal 8: develop a global partnership for development,

(26) *Recalling* that the responsibility of parliamentarians and governments in achieving the MDGs, which correspond to a number of human rights (the right to education, health, decent housing, etc.) enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, forms part of a broader approach that seeks to promote sustainable development, justice, peace, good governance and the rule of law,

(27) *Considering* the final text of the agreements and commitments adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002), known as the Monterrey Consensus, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), which reaffirmed the MDGs and emphasized the role of all stakeholders in the process of development financing, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (December 2008),

(28) *Considering* that the participants at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV, Yokohama, 2008) agreed to strengthen global efforts to tackle various challenges, including African development, environmental issues, climate change and poverty, and

that they welcomed the Cool Earth Partnership, Japan's financial mechanism to assist developing countries to address climate change,

(29) *Underscoring* that, according to the Human Development Report for 2007/2008, climate change is undermining international efforts to fight poverty and hindering attempts to honour commitments to achieve the MDGs, that ensuring environmental sustainability is therefore a major factor in the elimination of poverty, one of the unanimously agreed goals of the international community and that, moreover, efforts to address climate change should not prejudice the achievement of the MDGs,

(30) *Recognizing* that it is crucially important to build sound material-cycle societies through the 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) Initiative, which was agreed at the G8 Sea Island Summit in 2004, for promoting sustainable development,

(31) *Concerned* that people from developing countries, especially women and children living in poverty, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of their limited capacity and resources to respond, and that this gives them a particular claim on the solidarity and support of the industrialized nations,

(32) *Underscoring* the need to be aware that energy use is a prerequisite of economic and social progress, but that misuse of energy resources has a huge impact on the environment and hence on vital natural resources,

(33) *Aware* that the vast majority of humankind cannot live without electric power and liquid fuels and that approximately two billion people in the world have no access to electric power,

(34) *Pointing out* that poverty reduction is closely linked to the access of the most underprivileged populations to energy services that meet fundamental human needs and contribute to social development,

(35) *Considering* that there are stark imbalances even within societies with regard to people's capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change and that these are reflected especially in the precarious situation of women in developing countries, which is often a direct result of the link between the climate, the environment and an unstable supply,

(36) *Cognizant* of the fact that the industrialized nations and the countries with growing economies should honour their commitments to the fight against underdevelopment and poverty, notably by fulfilling the pledges made by the Members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

(37) *Noting* that the increasing interdependence of energy-producing, -consuming and transi countries creates a need for dialogue in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity, which will enable these countries to benefit fully from their mutual dependence and promote global energy security with due regard for the interests of all stakeholders (Kyiv Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly – 2007),

(38) *Recognizing* the work being developed in the energy field by some Latin American and Caribbean countries under the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) integration project,

(39) *Strongly rejecting* all efforts to use energy issues as a means of exerting political pressure,

(40) *Underscoring* that the nations of the world should create mechanisms to prevent crisis situations and supply shortages, in other words an energy-crisis-management system that would facilitate capacity-building of the most vulnerable countries,

(41) *Aware* that good governance is an indispensable tool for combining economic development and environmental protection,

(42) *Underscoring* the adoption at the 107th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Marrakech, 2002) of a resolution that encourages "States to create conditions enabling countries to maximize the use of renewable energy sources",

(43) *Considering* the results of the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC regarding biofuels, as well as inter alia the outcome of the discussions that took place during the International Conference on Biofuels, held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 17 to 21 November 2008, and the Declaration on "Parliaments and Biofuels" of Sao Paulo signed by 20 parliamentarians from all continents present at the Special Session for Parliamentarians held in the wings of that Conference,

(44) *Aware* that, in view of the effects of climate change, which are already recognizable today, little time is left for effective action to reduce the volume of greenhouse gases,

(45) *Noting* that all polluting vehicles, particularly used cars, in circulation in developed and developing countries are a huge source of CO_2 emissions,

(46) *Noting* that the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted in 2002 indicates that "biodiversity provides goods and services that underpin sustainable development in many important ways, thus contributing to poverty alleviation",

(47) *Considering* that land-use changes and deforestation are responsible for approximately 20 per cent of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and that these practices can also lead to soil erosion and biodiversity loss,

(48) *Recognizing* that renewables are a significant means of promoting low-carbon power generation, helping to cut CO_2 emissions, contributing to energy self-sufficiency and security of supply, reducing dependence on fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) and mineral resources (uranium), and helping to boost regional economies and safeguard jobs through reliance on local energy sources,

1. *Urges* all parties involved in the UNFCCC Bali Road Map negotiations, particularly those whose parliaments are also Members of the IPU, to work diligently and in good faith towards an effective global response to the climate change crisis, to be concluded this year at COP15, knowing that such a response is not an option, but an imperative;

2. *Urges* governments to recognize that safeguarding natural resources in the spirit of the MDGs depends on both the creation of a global development partnership and a common commitment, in particular by the developed countries, to a vigorous struggle against global poverty and hunger; *further urges* them to recognize that sustainable development will require them to address gender-based discrimination and provide equal rights for women, including access to and control of resources and land;

3. *Requests* governments to carry out a national assessment of the impact of climate change on women with a view to developing evidence-based policies and national plans of action that address the differential impact of climate change and build on the potential of both men and women;

4. *Calls on* parliaments to understand that they bear a special responsibility for the protection of natural resources and for sustainable development of our planet, and *encourages* government action and citizen mobilization in favour of environmental protection;

5. *Calls on* parliaments and parliamentarians of the developed countries to urge their governments to honour their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of GNP to official development assistance, as stipulated in the Millennium Declaration;

6. *Believes* that parliaments have an important role to play in increasing international cooperation between States with a view to protecting and cleaning up the marine environment by strengthening synergies in common fields such as coastal zone

management, eliminating pollution hot spots, protecting biodiversity, achieving sustainable fisheries, etc.;

7. *Maintains* that access to drinking water and a balanced diet are indispensable to public health; *also maintains* that access to drinking water is essential to reduce poverty and the diseases associated with water scarcity and, in this connection, *strongly supports* the UNDP proposal to declare the right to water a basic human right;

8. *Calls* for global action for climate protection, careful stewardship of valuable resources and worldwide sustainable development, as key challenges of the 21st century to be met by developed and developing countries acting together with genuine political will;

9. *Urges* those States that have not already done so to sign and ratify the Kyoto Protocol;

10. *Encourages* the development of the emissions-trading system in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol and the building of bridges between this system and other systems established by non-signatory States;

11. *Invites* States that emit large quantities of greenhouse gases and the regional organizations concerned to follow the example of the decisions taken by the European Union in December 2008 to limit its emissions, enhance its energy efficiency and increasingly resort to renewable energies, and to adopt action plans aimed at obtaining significant results in these three areas by 2020;

12. *Calls on* States to increase cost efficiency and flexibility in the pursuit of climate-related goals by means of a global emissions-trading system and geographical and sectoral extension of the project-based mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

13. *Encourages* both developed and developing countries that produce environmentally thoughtful technologies to promote the transfer of technology to developing countries in order to raise environmental, health and living standards in those countries, and to coordinate the pursuit of environmental, economic and development objectives;

14. *Encourages* developed countries to work with each other and with developing countries to support the transfer of new, low-cost, renewable energy technologies to developing countries, particularly in rural areas; *further encourages* all countries to support the implementation of energy-saving solutions through educational and training programmes that target women in particular and through microcredit initiatives;

15. *Encourages* countries to develop appropriate population policies, including planning, to find a balance between natural resources and increasing demand for them;

16. *Urges* States to step up implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism with a view to minimizing the cost of achieving the contractually agreed reduction targets while using the mechanism to promote the transfer of state-of-the-art technology to developing countries;

17. *Calls on* all States to participate in a constructive spirit in international climate negotiations with a view to defining a post-Kyoto mechanism in Copenhagen that is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and under which each State contributes effectively to the necessary global reduction of greenhouse gases and is subject to inspections;

18. *Calls for* greater energy efficiency, particularly with regard to everyday appliances and devices, such as lighting, computers and televisions, and to transportation in cities, with the development of car-sharing initiatives and the improvement of public transportation, with a view to further reducing energy consumption;

19. *Encourages* countries to promote energy efficiency in the sectors of energy generation and distribution, heat production for heating buildings, and electrical engines;

20. *Encourages* countries to emulate the Japanese top-runner programme and to work to ensure that the most energy-efficient appliance is used as the benchmark for all other appliances;

21. *Urges* governments to involve all relevant stakeholders in the design, development and distribution of efficient and cost-effective energy-saving initiatives;

22. *Calls on* the relevant authorities to ensure that buildings to be constructed or renovated are designed so as to require less energy for heating and cooling and to use energy from renewable sources;

23. *Urges* governments to engage the automobile industry in greater production of low-emission vehicles;

24. *Urges* governments to invest in fast rail and public transport systems as a way to reduce CO_2 emissions, create new economic opportunities, increase mobility and reduce traffic congestion and pollution;

25. *Encourages* the automobile industry to promote the use of sustainable biofuels, recognizing the ever increasing importance of renewable energy sources in the context of a sound and sustainable climate policy;

26. *Encourages* governments to help coordinate and fund better urban planning, including public transportation, with the goal of reducing the number of vehicle-kilometres travelled each year;

27. *Recommends* that governments make clear that the increased use of biofuels should not result in diversion of arable land, cause environmental damage or restrict food production;

28. *Requests* the governments of countries with equatorial and tropical forests to put in place alternatives to the charcoal production and consumption patterns that are responsible for deforestation and the consequent disastrous climate change, soil erosion and extinction of animal species;

29. C*alls on* countries to take action to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss, and *invites* them to strengthen cooperation with a view to the Convention on Biological Diversity COP10 and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety COP-MOP5 to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010;

30. *Calls on* the parliaments of industrialized nations in particular to ensure that their governments take the lead in the global fight against climate change and in the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions by equipping and retrofitting buildings with electricity, heating and cooling systems fuelled by renewable energy and by modernizing buildings and equipping them with energy-efficient technology;

31. *Calls on* countries to take into consideration pricing policies and subsidies for fossil fuel energy in the various relevant sectors with a view to promoting climate policy;

32. *Affirms* that a powerful commitment by the government and parliament in every country is of crucial importance to the implementation of common development strategies in every sector that can improve the quality of the environment (including fisheries);

33. *Urges* governments to support the global expansion of renewables (wind power, biomass and biogas, photovoltaics and solar energy, hydroelectricity and geothermal energy) as a major source of energy supply since renewables are the best means of promoting low-carbon power generation, helping to cut CO_2 emissions, contributing to energy self-sufficiency and security of supply, reducing dependence on fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal)

and mineral resources (uranium), and helping to boost regional economies and safeguard jobs through reliance on local energy sources;

34. *Encourages* governments to support and fund research on development and promotion of renewable energies, including low-cost light technology, both nationally and internationally, giving consideration to the differential effects on men and women; *further encourages* parliaments to make use of gender-sensitive budgets to that effect;

35. *Calls on* governments to build national competence and expertise in order to master the energy technologies of today and tomorrow;

36. *Urges* governments to increase, through research and development, the ratio of renewables to conventional energy sources in the energy mix, in keeping with each region's specificities;

37. *Calls on* States to improve existing climate-protection technology through research and development in order to create more mechanisms for the fight against climate change; *urges* developing countries to actively participate in the Cool Earth Partnership;

38. *Encourages* States to take into account the following factors when choosing nuclear energy as an option for CO_2-free energy production: the finite nature of natural resources, including uranium; the highly complex and sensitive nature of this technology, which can entail malfunctions with serious consequences; the impact of nuclear accidents on the environment and people's lives, such as Chernobyl; the unresolved problem of final disposal; and the fact that the long-term problems posed by climate change cannot be solved by nuclear technology alone;

39. *Urges* States to support research and development of carbon capture and storage, recognizing that, while carbon capture and storage has great potential to reduce emissions, it has limitations in capacity, is currently expensive, and can only be one of a series of actions that should focus on deployment of renewable energy and increased energy efficiency;

40. *Calls on* States to give high priority to the development of energy-storage systems and alternative fuels and to intensify research efforts in the fields of hydrogen and other fuel cells;

41. *Urges* parliaments to support scientific research into biofuel energy, including second-generation biofuels, and *encourages* the establishment of an international centre of excellence;

42. *Urges* States to give serious consideration to the development of infrastructure, such as the so-called "hydrogen highways", for the use of hydrogen technology;

43. *Recommends* that research in the field of thermonuclear fusion should be supported and welcomes the ITER project;

44. *Encourages* States to attach greater importance in the future to a multilateral response to the challenge of sustainable climate protection in the context of a "global domestic policy", whereby nations commit to ensuring that every political decision is governed by the sustainable development imperative and the need to conserve our planet's vital natural resources;

45. *Encourages* countries to build sound material-cycle societies through the 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) Initiative;

46. *Calls on* governments to pursue large-scale national and international public-awareness campaigns to highlight the need to combat climate change, underscore the importance of renewable energy sources, and draw attention to new technologies;

47. *Urges* governments to develop specialized educational and awareness programmes about climate change and its effects, targeting in particular children through the school curriculum and women in rural areas;

48. *Urges* the competent authorities to examine whether the close link between worldwide oil prices and regional gas prices in Europe can be justified over the long term;

49. *Insists* on the need to promote energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy and society through the rational use of energy in all its applications and the adoption of responsible behaviour in daily life in order to avoid all wastage and thereby save on energy;

50. *Calls on* States to encourage the decentralization of solar electricity and heating plants to avoid the transmission losses that result from long supply lines, while also engaging in regional supergrids of renewable energy sources;

51. *Calls on* States to support the dissemination of appropriate decentralized technologies at the local level, including small-scale composting and waste-recycling facilities, for green energy production;

52. *Urges* States to recognize that this applies in particular to the supply of electricity from solar plants in desert areas, which would make it possible to provide reasonably priced, reliable and sustainable electricity supplies in the desert areas of North Africa, for example, and to supply the countries of the Middle East and North Africa with drinking water from desalination plants, thereby giving fresh supranational impetus to the political struggle against climate change and defusing political tensions;

53. *Encourages* the establishment of an international centre of excellence in order to foster biofuel research and development;

54. *Calls on* governments to build national competence and expertise in order to master energy technologies associated with the development of renewable energies;

55. *Also encourages* IPU Member Parliaments to exchange information on technological development and international cooperation in the area of biofuels;

56. *Urges* governments and IPU Member Parliaments to intensify research and technical cooperation in the field of renewable energy, and to actively promote the participation of women in this field;

57. *Encourages* the competent authorities to examine the possibility of increasing funding and technological support with a view to developing the production of low-carbon energy in developing countries; *confirms* that promoting cooperation in this field should increase the number of energy users while reducing carbon emissions and strengthening efforts geared towards reducing poverty;

58. *Invites* States to put in place a strategy to combat deforestation, which has harmful consequences both for humankind and for the entire planet;

59. *Invites* governments and relevant international organizations to promote environment-friendly agricultural technology, including organic agriculture, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss stemming from agricultural activity in developing countries, as well as to enhance sustainable development in those countries;

60. *Encourages* States to put in place national strategies — and to enhance those that already exist — with a view to increasing the role of renewable energies in meeting basic energy needs while curbing the environmental effects of their systems;

61. *Encourages* the transfer of renewable energy technologies through agreements that guarantee active national participation in the production, marketing and maintenance processes, without neglecting regional cooperation in this field;

62. *Encourages* governments to implement appropriate measures to mitigate the negative effects of the current international economic crisis on investment in the energy and environment sectors and on the development of developing countries; *urges* governments to promote the establishment of an international financial institution — funded by industries that contribute to climate change — for financing the mitigation of severe consequences of climate change and environmental degradation in affected countries;

63. *Calls for* policy-making in the area of climate change and renewable energies to be more inclusive of women as key stakeholders and to build on best practices collected through specialized national and international networks, and for women's participation in overseeing the implementation of international conventions on climate change; *further calls for* greater cooperation between parliaments and their members, on the one hand, and United Nations agencies working in this field, on the other, especially the United Nations Environment Programme;

64. *Urges* governments to make every effort to achieve agreements for establishing a post-Kyoto regime at COP15 in Copenhagen;

65. *Encourages* greater awareness of the impact of climate change and optimization of renewable energy resources, including through media campaigns, and *urges* people to play their part in mitigating climate change through environmental protection programmes aimed at forestation and energy-rationing campaigns;

66. *Encourages* governments to invest in environment-friendly real-estate projects that avoid overuse of natural resources, following in the footsteps of the "Blue communities" initiative in Dubai;

67. *Encourages* the establishment of pollution-free cities, inspired by the Masdar City initiative launched by the United Arab Emirates in 2006;

68. *Underscores* that the global financial crisis and the ensuing economic meltdown should not thwart States' efforts to protect the environment and reduce the impact of climate change via the use of environment-friendly but costly clean energy; *considers* that funding for environmental projects and programmes should not be affected;

69. *Calls* for the establishment of international awards to recognize efforts aimed at environmental protection and climate change mitigation, said awards to be open to government agencies, private companies, non-governmental organizations and individuals.

Annex IV to the letter dated 12 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 120th IPU Assembly
(Addis Ababa, 10 April 2009)

The 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *Recalling* that under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression",

(2) *Further recalling* Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966),

(3) *Taking note* of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (1950),

(4) *Taking note* of Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights (1969),

(5) *Taking note* of Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981),

(6) *Taking note of* the Chapultepec Declaration adopted by the Hemisphere Conference on Free Speech (1994),

(7) *Recalling* the 63rd General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) held in Copenhagen (1997) on access to information and freedom of expression,

(8) *Taking note of* the Aarhus Convention (1998) adopted by the Member States of the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the European Union,

(9) *Noting* the 1998 Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the protection and promotion of the right to freedom of opinion and expression,

(10) *Noting* the 1999 and 2004 Joint Declarations of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

* The delegation of Australia expressed reservations on operative paragraph 23.

Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Organization of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression,

(11) *Noting* the 2002 African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa,

(12) *Recalling* the May 2005 IPU Seminar on Freedom of Expression, Parliament and the Promotion of Tolerant Societies,

(13) *Noting* the 2006 Joint Declaration of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa,

(14) *Noting* the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in two instalments (Geneva, 2003 and Tunisia, 2005), which seeks to build an information society with a humane and inclusive dimension that is conducive to development, in which each individual has the possibility to create, obtain, use and share information and knowledge, in keeping with the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

(15) *Welcoming* the Medellin Declaration on Securing the Safety of Journalists and Combating Impunity adopted on the occasion of the UNESCO Conference on Press Freedom, Safety of Journalists and Impunity in 2007,

(16) *Believing* that the people's right to information as well as the generation and dissemination of information are indispensable elements of a functioning democracy and that access to information is an essential tool for strengthening government accountability, transparency and adherence to the rule of law,

(17) *Believing furthermore* that the new digital communication tools, notably the Internet, can constitute powerful tools likely to facilitate the exercise of freedom of expression, access to information, transparency and diversity of opinions in the information society,

(18) *Recognizing* the importance of freedom of expression and access to information in a democratic society for ensuring accountability, checking corrupt practices and enhancing good governance,

(19) *Recognizing also* that freedom of expression should not be used to spread or promote hatred inciting to discrimination, hostility or violence,

(20) *Convinced* that the protection of journalists' sources is an indispensable condition of press freedom,

(21) *Expressing concern* that in some parts of the world, citizens are not sufficiently informed about their rights to freedom of expression and of access to information,

(22) *Expressing concern* that denial of access to information on matters of public concern remains widespread in many government bureaucracies,

(23) *Expressing further concern* that in some parts of the world illiteracy may affect citizens' ability to exercise their right to access information and freedom of expression,

(24) *Urging* governments to inform their citizens of their legal rights, including freedom of expression and access to information,

(25) *Considering* that education and literacy are crucial to the full enjoyment of access to information rights,

(26) *Concerned,* however, that computer systems and new digital communication tools can be misused or abused to spread child pornography and racist or xenophobic propaganda,

(27) *Convinced* of the need to strike a balance between freedom of expression, on the one hand, and the fight against incitement to hatred, on the other,

(28) *Convinced* of the need to clearly define the lawful limits to freedom of expression that are necessary and proportionate in any democratic society,

(29) *Aware* that appropriate measures should be taken, especially in the new information and communication environment, to protect minors from the harmful effects of content and behaviour likely to affect their well-being negatively,

(30) *Concerned* about the widening digital divide between developing and developed countries, which impedes equal enjoyment of freedom of expression and the right to information by all people,

(31) *Aware* that people's right to access information is more relevant today than ever, as modern democracy embraces a wider and more direct concept of accountability,

1. *Believes* that freedom of expression and access to information are fundamental to a democratic society;

2. *Welcomes* the expansion among States of freedom of information rights;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption and modernization of rights-based access to information legislation throughout the world;

4. *Welcomes also* the efforts of international institutions and organizations aimed at protecting freedom of expression and the right to information;

5. *Encourages* those parliaments that have not already done so to enact freedom of information legislation at the earliest opportunity, and *underscores* the need for the parliaments of States that already have such a legal framework in place to ensure that it is implemented effectively;

6. *Calls on* parliaments to enact laws that ensure respect for intellectual pluralism;

7. *Urges* parliaments to adopt the legislative measures needed to criminalize the dissemination or transmission of child pornography through any medium;

8. *Invites* parliaments to take legislative action to protect journalists from being compelled to reveal their sources;

9. *Condemns* restrictions imposed on, violence suffered by, victimization and even assassination of members of parliament, journalists and other opinion shapers in exercising the right of freedom of expression;

10. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that only those restrictions on freedom of expression that are absolutely necessary to protect the rights of others and provided for by law are allowed, and that any regulatory regime operates in this context;

11. *Recognizes* that freedom of expression and access to information may need to be restricted in case of war or other serious threat to public security, but *stresses* that such restrictions ought to be strictly limited in scope and duration by legislation that is proportionate to its purpose and whose implementation is subject to independent judicial oversight;

12. *Expresses its concern* that the concentration of media ownership will lead to the marginalization of the right to express unconventional views or views that are not in the mainstream;

13. *Invites* those parliaments that have not already done so to pass laws to guarantee the plurality of media, including public-interest and community broadcasters, as being essential to freedom of expression; furthermore *calls on* parliaments to combat arbitrary sanctions by the State on the media, press agencies and their agents;

14. *Believes* that plurality of media and public-interest broadcasters should be encouraged by parliaments as being essential to freedom of expression;

15. *Urges* the media to exercise their freedom of expression judiciously in all circumstances, particularly during armed conflicts, counter-terrorism operations and in other similar situations;

16. *Believes* in the importance of promoting a society in which a diversity of broadcasters, publishers, artists, and other persons or organizations can exercise their freedom of expression and participate fully and in which the public has access to a variety of opinions, perspectives and views;

17. *Invites* the Security Council to adopt a resolution recalling the scope of international humanitarian law for journalists present in conflict zones;

18. *Further calls* for parliaments to participate actively in an international dialogue on the future governance of the Internet to ensure that it constitutes a democratic medium of expression that respects the legitimate rights of others, particularly in the framework of the UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and of emerging networks linked to the IGF on the national and regional levels;

19. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure that education is compulsory, free and equally available to boys and girls until at least age 16 and that adult literacy and mastery of new information and communication technologies become widespread practices;

20. *Believes* that freedom of information is essential to full enjoyment of the right of freedom of expression and meaningful participation in a democratic society;

21. *Encourages* parliaments to take effective measures to narrow the digital divide, including by providing technical and financial assistance to developing countries and by strengthening international cooperation in this field;

22. *Urges* the IPU to encourage the exchange of experiences and good practices in the development of the right to freedom of information and to give technical support to

parliaments wishing to take action to enhance the exercise and enjoyment of the right to freedom of information;

23. *Encourages* the development of freedom of information beyond State actors to encompass significant private-sector companies and bodies;

24. *Believes* that whistleblowers should be protected by law, if acting in the public interest;

25. *Stresses* that, in public administration, the basic principle should be in favour of transparency so that disclosure is subject only to narrowly defined restrictions permissible only in the public interest, or to protect the personal data of individuals;

26. *Urges* parliaments to eliminate the barriers to an effective freedom of information regime, including, but not limited to, public awareness, sufficient resources, limiting exceptions, effective guidelines, elimination of delays and excessive fees, and an independent regulatory mechanism to enforce compliance, and to encourage a culture of openness in the public service.